Job placement for land owners in Koodankulam Power Project

2052. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families whose lands have been acquired 'so far' for setting up Koodankulam Atomic Power Project in Thirunelveli district of Tamilnadu;

(b) how many applications have been received, so far, from land owners seeking job opportunity in the Plant;

(c) how many persons have been provided job from among the land owners, so far; and

(d) will Government provide jobs to all the land owners, whose lands have been acquired/ earmarked in order to provide them livelihood by relaxing standards, if necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Land belonging to 3325 families has been acquired so far for the Koodankulam Project.

(b) No applications have been invited for employment from Land Affected Persons. However, some requests have been received from the local public.

(c) None. The implementation of the Project has not yet started.

(d) The livelihood of the land owners has not been affected, as the land acquired so far for the proposed Koodankulam Project and its colony is non-agricultural dry land. However, when the project construction is taken up, if the local people are found eligible, they could be given preference while filling certain posts in categories C&D as per the norms.

Special Safety measures for Koodankulam Power Project

2053. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the Koodankulam Atomic Power Project, being setup in Tamil Nadu with Russian aid;

(b) whether the proposed project has been certified by Scientists as cent percent safe;

(c) whether Government are taking special safety measures to see that the habitations around the atomic station are not affected by radiation etc; and

(d) if so, what safety measures will be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The "Supplement to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988" for setting up of 2 X 1000 MWe Light Water Reactors in Tamil Nadu was signed by the Indian and Russian Governments on 21.6.98. Subsequently, the DPR Contract for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Koodankulam project was signed on 20.7.98.

(b) The Regulatory Authority i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has thoroughly reviewed and endorsed the technical specifications for the Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In accordance with the requirements of setting up of Nuclear Power Plants, no habitation is permitted within an area of 2.0 kms radius around the proposed Koodankulam plant location which is known as the 'Exclusion zone'. This area is acquired by the nuclear power project authorities to exercise full control by constructing a boundary wall so as to isolate the outside population from the exclusion zone. This is a measure of safety giving an additional barrier between the containment of the reactor and the public domain. Moreover, a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan for plant emergency as well as the offside emergency is already in existance for all the atomic power plants.

Procurement of light water reactors

2054. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to procure light water reactors from foreign countries to achieve the targeted Nuclear Power generation;

(b) if so, the details of the countries from

which Government propose to procure light reactors and under what terms and conditions;

(c) the reasons of procuring such items from the foreign countries and whether it will have adverse affect on our Nuclear installations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed between the Government of India and the erstwhile Soviet Union in November 1988. The IGA provided for the construction of 2 x 1000 MWe VVER type Nuclear Power Station in India on a turn-key basis by the Soviet organisations. Owing to political developments in the erstwhile USSR in August 1991, the activities came to a standstill but negotiations continued. As a result of continued negotiations, a "Supplement" to the IGA of 1988 was signed between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on June 21, 1998 to incorporate the revised terms for the implementation of the project on technical co-operation basis instead of on a turn-key basis. Further, the work on preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress.

(c) and (d) Since India is self-reliant in Pressurised Heavy Water and Reactor (PHWR) techology, the proposed reactors based on Light Water Reactor (LWR) technology are being imported in order to increase India's technical capabilities in diverse fields of nuclear power generation. Therefore this proposal will not have any adverse effect on our nuclear installations. Moreover, the proposed reactors are of 1000 MWe capacity, and addition of single units of large capacity would enable the country to meet the growing needs of power.

Design and Execution of Nuclear Power Plants

2055. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is self-sufficient in design and execution of Nuclear Power Plants;

(b) what is the smallest size of plant recommended;

(c) whether the safety level of our nuclear plants is comparable to international yardsticks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) with design and all materials being indigenous and technical persons being cheaper, why does the Nuclear Power Plant cost more than the Hydel Plant; and

(f) whether the cost analysis open to public or it is a secret, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From the Narora Atomic Power Station onwards, 2 X 220 MWe units have been standardised for indigenous nuclear power plants.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) According to the reports of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), the safety performance of all Indian atomic power plants are comparable to and even better than the average value of safety for atomic power plant world wide. The Indian atomic power plants are operated in a very reliable and safe manner and have been operated safely for more than 150 reactor operating years without any single radiological accident as defined in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) which facilitates yet another comparison with international standards. Further, the regulatory practices followed in India are modelled on the codes and standards published by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The regulatory authority i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has implemented the latest recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) on the dose limits to radiation workers.

(e) A nuclear power station is capital intensive due to various items of equipment which are necessary for achieving the mandatory safety requirements. The design and operation of nuclear power stations technology-wise is more complex than hydel plants.